

**New College of Florida Board of Trustees
Sudakoff Conference Center
Draft Minutes for August 10, 2023**

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Debra A. Jenks lead the pledge.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. and a quorum was announced.

Trustees Present: Debra A. Jenks (Chair), Ron Christaldi (Vice Chair), Ryan Anderson, Mark Bauerlein, Lance Karp, Grace Keenan, Charles Kesler, Sarah Mackie, Christopher Rufo, and Matthew Spalding. Not present: Joe Jacquot

Acknowledgment of Notice of Meeting

Interim Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President of Government Relations Christie Fitz-Patrick confirmed the meeting had been duly noticed.

Call for Public Comment

Public comment process ensued. The following members of the public provided comments: Mike Sanderson, Rodrigo Díaz, David Dagile, Jono Miller, Kathleen Coty, Gary Howell, Bruce Benidt, Tamara Solum, Rosemary Mejia, and Tracy Fero.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was presented and a request was made by Chair Jenks that it be approved.

Trustee Reid requested that the following consent agenda items be removed:

Finance & Administration Committee

- Faculty Recruitment and Retention Appropriation Spending Plan
- 2023/24 Initial Operating Budget
- Fixed Capital Outlay Budget

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Vice Chair Ron Christaldi, seconded by Trustee Spalding, and was approved unanimously.

Consent agenda action items approved were as follows:

Approve Minutes for the July 6, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting

Finance & Administration Committee Items

Trustee Reid requested to ask questions and start a discussion on the Finance and Administration Committee Items. Chair Christaldi recommended that Trustee Reid be permitted to ask her questions to VP Kinsley. Trustee Reid proceeded to ask her questions.

VP Kinsley shared his response and a discussion ensued. Interim President Corcoran confirmed that the questions presented by Trustee Reid were previously asked at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on July 31, 2023. Trustee Keenan requested that a footnote be added to the section regarding the projected Foundation numbers on the 2023/24 Initial Operating Budget.

Finance and Administration Committee Chair Christaldi suggested that Trustee Reid and VP Kinsley meet offline to allow VP Kinsley to share the proper information with her. VP Kinsley ensured that he will be committed to answering her questions.

Chair Jenks called for a motion to approve the recommendation of the Finance and Administration Committee Faculty Recruitment and Retention Appropriation Spending Plan, the 2023/24 Initial Operating Budget, and the Fixed Capital Outlay Budget. A motion was made by Trustee Spalding, Seconded by Trustee Karp, and a roll call vote was taken and approved with 10 voting yes and 1 voting no.

President's Report

Interim President Richard Corcoran provided his remarks. He discussed how historically, New College has scored low on many of the important metrics established by the Florida Board of Governors, specifically student retention and graduation rates and the plans to address these performance standards. He then discussed the significance of the Business Plan and its impact on the future of New College and how it will be presented to the Board of Governors.

Business Plan Presentation

Interim President Richard Corcoran presented the Business Plan. Chair Jenks requested that General Counsel Bill Galvano explain the process as requested by the Florida Board of Governors. Counsel Galvano explained the Board of Governors would like to have each item voted on separately including the Business Plan, Accountability Plan and Student Success Plan.

Questions and a discussion ensued. Trustee Keenan expressed her thoughts and concerns regarding the distribution of the document process. Trustee Spalding stated that the President is authorized to consult whomever he chooses. The General Counsel confirmed and expounded that ultimately, it is the Board of Governors that approves whether the plan is acceptable and deemed consistent with the laws of Florida and the objectives of the State University System.

Vice Chair Christaldi asked General Counsel Bill Galvano if the approval of the Business Plan will be procedurally appropriate given pending edits. The General Counsel confirmed that it is appropriate with edits furtherance of the objectives of the plan. He further noted that the BOG has expressed a preference to have the Board vote on the Business Plan with the two appendices, and then vote on the Student Success Plan and the Accountability Plan separately.

Chair Jenks called for a motion to approve the Business Plan. Trustee Spalding made a motion, in the form presented to the Board, subject to such amendments and technical revisions to other changes as the President in his discretion deems necessary to effectuate

the objectives of the plan, was seconded by Trustee Karp, and approved with a roll call vote taken with 9 voting yes and 2 voting no.

Chair Jenks requested a motion to approve the Accountability Plan. A motion was made by Trustee Spalding, seconded by Trustee Karp, and approved unanimously with a roll call vote taken with 11 voting yes.

Chair Jenks requested a motion to approve the Student Success Plan. A motion was made by Trustee Spalding, seconded by Trustee Karp, and approved with a roll call vote taken with 9 voting yes and 2 voting no.

Presidential Search Committee

Chair Jenks requested Trustee Spalding, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee and NCF Trustee to share updates on the presidential search process. Trustee Spalding gave an update on the process and confirmed that all three candidates have met the criteria set forth by the Florida Board of Governors and were brought to the Board of Trustees for further consideration.

Student Housing

Chair Jenks requested Chris Kinsley, Vice President of Finance & Administration, to present the Student Housing contract.

Questions and a discussion ensued.

Trustees Keenan and Reid gave their remarks and concerns regarding the hotel for student housing. Trustee Spalding asked if the current housing situation is caused by the years of deferred maintenance from the previous administrations. It was confirmed that the primary causes are the high levels of enrollment and the many years of deferred maintenance.

President Corcoran confirmed that he will ensure it will be the best possible environment for the students. The General Counsel confirmed that responsibility was put on the hotel to provide transportation and they are working with the college to be flexible in increasing the number of routes. President Corcoran confirmed that they will do whatever they need to do to ensure student safety. Questions were raised regarding a contract for the spring semester and it was confirmed that the system allows for extension of the contract by amendment.

Chair Jenks called for a motion to approve. Vice Chair Christaldi moved to approve the Contract with Hotel for Additional Student Housing, was seconded by Trustee Karp, and approved unanimously with a roll call vote taken with 11 voting yes.

Collective Bargaining Agreements

Chair Jenks requested Erika Worthy, Chief Human Resource Officer, to present the Ratification of Changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between New College of Florida and the Police Benevolent Association.

Questions and a discussion ensued.

Chair Jenks called for a motion to approve. Trustee Reid moved to approve the Ratification of Changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between New College of Florida and the Police Benevolent Association, was seconded by Trustee Bauerlein, and a roll call vote was taken and approved with 10 voting yes, and Vice Chair Christaldi not present.

New Business

Trustee Rufo requested to propose an item of new business to discuss one program in particular that is not compatible with the mission of New College to revive a classical liberal arts education, stating that the gender studies program is wildly contradictory to that mission.

Trustee Rufo moved to direct the President and staff to take the necessary and proper steps to terminate the Gender Studies program beginning with the 2024 enrollees.

The General Counsel advised that this motion may be made as a directive to look into the proper steps for terminating the Gender Studies program to ensure compliance with all requirements of the Florida Board of Governors, including Regulation 8.012.

Questions and a discussion ensued. Trustee Reid presented a statement in support of Gender Studies. Trustee Keenan requested prepared documents with the reasoning behind this directive.

The General Counsel confirmed there are no procedural issues with the motion in that it is only a directive for further action and not dispositive.

Trustee Rufo made a motion to approve the directive to start the process to discontinue the Gender Studies program beginning with the 2024 enrollees, seconded by Trustee Spalding, and approved with a roll call vote taken with 7 voting yes, 2 voting no, and Vice Chair Christaldi voting no due to not being present for the entirety of the discussion to be properly informed. Trustee Anderson was not present for the vote.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christie Fitz-Patrick
Interim Chief of Staff